

**European Spice Industry (ESA)
Representing the European Spice and Seasoning Industry**

ESA – Delivering the Vision

The European Spice Association is the ambassador of the European Spice Industry worldwide.

It acts as representative of the European Spice and Seasoning Industry towards the European Institutions as well as International Bodies in order to promote the industrial positions, in particular in all regulatory matters. For its members, the European Spice Association provides information on the developments within the European Union in relation to spices, herbs and seasonings and acts as their primary European networking platform.

- ESA had been founded in 1984 by 7 national spice and seasoning associations.
- Today, ESA encompasses 15 national spice associations from 14 countries and 65 individual companies.
- Through the national spice associations being member of ESA, approximately 300 spice companies are indirectly represented by ESA.
- ESA is a non-profit organization.

ESA – Priorities

The European Spice Association's priorities are:

- ESA's main objectives are in food safety, quality and sustainability.
- ESA acts as the contact point for all European regulatory bodies in case of all matters with regard to spices and herbs.
- ESA is, for its members, a forum for information on the European development in the industrial area of spices and herbs.
- ESA provides the forum and organizational structure to discuss and agree on European Standards and Legislation in all technical matter regarding herbs and spices.
- ESA initiates and co-ordinates activities of the national spice associations in all relevant matters.
- ESA initiates and maintains close contacts to the industrial partners, exporters and growers of spices and herbs around the globe in order to foster food safety, quality and sustainability.

Acting within these priorities, ESA and its members are always acting in full compliance with all laws and regulations.

The European Spice and Seasoning Market

The per capita consumption of spices, herbs and seasonings in Europe is approximately 900 g p.a. The European Spice and Seasoning Industry, hence, represents approximately 6.5 Billion EUR in annual turnover, as such being part of the much bigger food and drink industry, with a share of stomach of less than 1%.

Today, consumers value spices more than ever. The consumption of spices and seasonings is increasing year over year.

The European spice industry employs approximately 10.000 people, most of them in modern production facilities, in which the incoming goods are processed on highest standards of Good Manufacturing Practices. Spice and seasoning companies are reliable employers. The number of employees in our industry is increasing year over year.

Indulgence

It is our industry that gives taste to food that brings delight and indulgence to people and that changes nutrition to pleasure.

Spices and seasonings are part of an unrivalled food history, wars have been fought, continents explored and kingdoms built for spices. Spices have always been valuable ingredients for the kitchen, though no longer weighted out in gold. This rich heritage comes together with their natural purity, their positive effects on human health and wellbeing.

Spices and seasonings are in virtually every piece of food that we consume. Whatever diet you follow, whatever your preferred meal is, wherever you live in Europe, you will consume our products several times every single day. This big responsibility is embraced by the European spice and seasoning industry, working on highest levels of purity and food safety. This industry does serve more than 360 million consumers a day, directly from the shelves of the local supermarkets, but even more so indirectly through hundreds of thousands of food processors in Europe.

Origin

Spices are also grown in Europe, prominent examples being the paprika from Spain or Hungary. However, most of the spices are coming from countries with a warmer climate. The import of spices is growing correspondingly to the market development. In 2014, around 415.000 mt of herbs and spices have been imported into Europe, the most important spice being pepper with 60.000 mt alone.